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NOTES AND NOVELTIES

PORTRAITS of Columbus are now in demand. The United States Government has sent to the Boston Public Library and has had photographs made of all the pictures of the explorer in its possession. These portraits are all engravings. There is a painting in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society of Columbus which is thus described: "A copy made for Thomas Jefferson from the original in the gallery of the Uffizi, Florence (19 x 24). Restored and lined by D. D. Sinclair, June, 1882. Given by Israel Thorndike, Esq., Dec. 31, 1835." This copy hung in Mr. Jefferson's drawing-room at Monticello. At his death in 1826 it came into the possession of the Jefferson family, and about 1823, or later, it was sent to Boston for sale. It was probably bought by Mr. Thorndike. A portrait of Columbus was recently presented to Colby University, Waterville, Me., by Senator Hamlin, copied from an original painting in the Naval Museum, Madrid. An etching after this picture has been recently published.

* * *

A list of the known portraits of Columbus is interesting. Washington Irving made such a schedule when he was writing his life of the explorer. Here it is.

* * *

1. De Bry's, which he claimed to have copied from one bought in the Netherlands, and which had been stolen from a salon in the council for the Indies. Several photographs and engravings of this portrait are mentioned. De Bry also engraved a full-length effigy in one corner of a half globe, a small medallion after his large portrait, a full-length picture in connection with Benzoni's narrative, besides another medallion portrait and a picture of Columbus at table, breaking the egg.
2. Full length, in mail, with a white ruff, in the lonja or exchange at Seville, which Irving thinks may have been taken from Diego, the discoverer's son.
3. Found in an old collection of engraved portraits and reproduced by Navarrette in 1826, and again by Irving in one of his abridged editions.
4. One of venerable and dignified appearance, with a Flemish ruff, bearing on the canvas the name "Christoforus Columbus," known as the "Jomard portrait."
5. Juan de Borgona's, painted in 1519, an engraving of which has appeared in one of Irving's editions.
6. Parmigiano's in the Royal Gallery at Naples, engraved in Prescott's "Ferdinand and Isabella," but now held not to be a likeness of Columbus at all.
7. De la Cosa's map of date 1500 bears an effigy of St. Christopher with the Infant Jesus on his shoulder. Some people believe this St. Christopher was painted as a likeness of Columbus, and the face has been enlarged to a portrait with that belief.
8. With a ruff and curly beard, "from a Spanish picture," in John Stevens' translation of Herrera; also in Bryant's "Popular History of the United States."
9. Painted by Sir Anthony More for Margaret, governess of the Netherlands; brought to England in 1590; in full dress, with ruff and rings. It is in one of the English editions of Irving's "Columbus."
10. Columbus with his two sons, seated at table, with a servant standing by; "from an old Spanish picture" in Edward's "West Indies."
11. Draped about the shoulders, with a garment closely fitted about the neck; copied from one engraved by Capriolo at Rome in 1596.
12. The ancient portrait owned by Guglielmo Colombo; hair short, coat buttoned up in the neck, draped about the shoulders.
13. The monument at Genoa, with bust.
14. A model of this is in the Boston Public Library.
15. With ruff and breast-plate, and scarf across the breast-plate. Drawn by Maello.
16. In Giovo, "Elogia virorum bellica virtute illustrium, Basil, 1575."
17. The Lenox Library has an engraving with this note attached: "Portrait of Columbus, from an original painting in the possession of the Duke of Alba, which I saw in his palace in Madrid in the year 1825. The picture was a very old one, probably painted in the life-time of Columbus. It had been much injured, but was restored by the person whose name is on the plate, and he made a drawing for the engraver Esteve. It was engraved at the expense of the duke, and only a small number of impressions taken off for distribution among his friends. This copy was one of three which Esteve was allowed to keep, and was given to me by him in the year 1832, just after the plate was finished. London, March, 16, 1848."

* * *

John B. Barney, a farmer, at Brookfield, in Delaware County, along the Brandywine, owns an old English quart bottle, enclosed in a glass case, and occupying a prominent position in the parlor of the farm house. A small frame, enclosing a manuscript written in a beautiful female hand over sixty years ago, states: "This bottle was recovered from the British sloop-of-war, *Mercury*, James Montgomery, commander, which was sunk in the North river, seven miles from the City of New York, in the year 1777. When found it was full of wine, and was first opened at John Barney's on the occasion of naming his son, John B. Barney, on the 31st day of January, 1822. The company having regaled themselves with this nectar of Neptune, the bottle was afterwards refilled by Thomas Blandy with his five-year-old Madeira and sealed with his seal. It is the desire of Mr. and Mrs. Barney to leave it, with its contents, a legacy to their son, the aforesaid John B. Barney, to remain unopened till he attains the age of 21 years." The bottle has about a dozen oyster shells grown fast to it, and was one of a number found in the hold of the British vessel. The present owner's father received it as a gift before his marriage, with the understanding that it should not be opened until a son should be born to him. Some sixty persons gathered on the day of the birth of his first child to taste the wine, but, as the infant was a girl, it was not uncorked. The second child was the present John B.

Barney, now over seventy years old, and, as already stated, the bottle was opened on his naming day. It was then refilled, and not opened again until his son's wedding reception, ten years ago. It was then refilled for a third time and sealed, and is to remain unopened until a grandson shall attain the age of twenty-one, which will be many years to come, as no son has yet been born, both grandchildren being daughters.

* * *

There is a very pretty little story with an interest for philatelists running the usual course of good stories through the East Indian press. Some years ago, it tells us, among the letters received by the ex-ameer of Cabul, at Mussoora, was one addressed to "His Majesty, King of Afghanistan," which ran nearly as follows: "Your majesty, I am a little German boy, and am making a collection of stamps. I wish very much to procure some stamps of your majesty's kingdom, and shall be very much obliged if your majesty would send me some." The letter was made over to the political officer in charge of the ameer, who good-naturedly answered the letter, inclosing a small collection of Cabul stamps. In due course came a reply from "the little German boy;" "Kind English officer: The stamps which you have so kindly sent me have arrived and are valued by me in my collection. I showed them and your letter to a distinguished German officer, who is now staying at my father's house, and he is so pleased with the kindness of an English officer to a little German boy that I asked him to give me his photograph to send to you, which he has done, and hope you will accept of it." The letter contained a photograph, with the autograph, "Von Moltke, Field Marshal." "The little German boy" turned out to be the son of a well known manufacturer, who had been most liberal in providing benevolent institutions for workmen in Germany, and who was the field marshal's host during the manoeuvres in the neighborhood of his property.

* * *

When a man undertakes to make a collection, there is nothing like being thorough about it. Such is evidently the principle of Mr. C. F. Gunther, of Chicago. To complete his catalogue of objects relating to the history and development of the world since it emerged out of chaos, Mr. Gunther has secured a piece of the skin of the serpent that tempted our Mother Eve in the Garden of Eden. This snakeskin is of a triangular shape, is 10 inches long by 6 inches wide, and is affixed to parchment which is inclosed in a frame 16 by 13 inches. It came originally from an ancient French church, where it was exhibited for many years as a wonderful relic. To make sure that it is what it is represented to be, it bears the inscription on a parchment attached to the frame:

Peau du Serpent

Qui a Seduit

La Premiere Femme.

Il fut tue par Adam le lendemain de sa trahison.

Adam se servit d'un pieu dont on voit encore les traces.

Cette peau faisoit partie de l'heritage d'Adam et elle fut conservee dans sa famille en asie.

Sceaux de garantie des Docteurs et Theologiens.

* * *

An unusually interesting picture by Alphonse de Neuville is on view at the Schaus Galleries. It is his famous episode in the Franco-Prussian war, the arrest and search of a dispatch-bearer, and is dated 1880. In the center stands the dispatch-bearer, submitting with dogged, defiant face to the examination of his pockets and blouse. A number of officers, seated over their pipes and coffee, watch the performance, some with languid and others with lively interest. From the door and windows and outside stair case of the old inn before which the scene is laid, privates and servants look on. The little drama is well planned, each actor plays his part naturally and unobtrusively, and the quiet village street with its gray buildings is a well chosen setting. So many of de Neuville's works, which were left incomplete at his death, have been finished by other hands, that it is a genuine pleasure to find one that one can swear by as being representative of the name by which it is signed.

* * *

A London correspondent of *The Chicago News* says in an entertaining note concerning my distinguished friend Mr. Bernard Quaritch, that he has for sale the Persian-English dictionary used by Edward Fitzgerald during his work on the "Rubaiyat" of Omar Kayyam. Mr. Quaritch's "appearance at a sale," says this correspondent, "strikes terror to the hearts of all other buyers, for he is known as the craftiest and boldest of competitors. The old man will sit for hours waiting for some coveted treasure. His eyes will be closed and his head dropped forward upon his bosom; undoubtedly he is asleep. But how does it happen that he always contrives to be awake just at the right time? He is never caught napping; he starts, opens his eyes, is wide awake and ready for action the moment the sale of a valued volume or manuscript is reached." The fact is that Mr. Quaritch is not only the greatest bookseller in the world, but a bookseller with a genius for his vocation. If he were not he would not stand where he does to-day.

The Yale Art School has opened its annual winter exhibition to the public. Among the collections, the most notable, perhaps, is that of Dutch and Flemish paintings, ranging over two or three centuries. This collection was made by Mr. Louis R. Ehrich, a Yale graduate, and brother of the Ehrich Brothers, the dry-goods merchants of New York. He was attracted by the old masters when pursuing post-graduate studies at Berlin. The most important pictures in the collection are an interior with the figure of a woman in a blue robe by Netscher; a cattle piece by Adrian van de Velde; a Rubens, representing peasants dancing under the trees; a fine three-quarter length portrait of a young woman by Cornelis van Haarlem, and a very remarkable work by Roger van der Weyden. Besides, there is the Trumbull collection of paintings illustrative of revolutionary times; the Jarves collection of Italian art, consisting of 122 pictures, dating from the eleventh to the seventeenth century; a valuable collection of Chinese porcelains and bronzes, a series of very fine and rare Belgian wood carvings of the sixteenth century; about one hundred paintings of contemporaneous art; and a collection of 150 casts and marbles, representative of the various periods of Greek and Renaissance art. Important late additions are original sketches by Michael Angelo, Rembrandt, Corregio and others of the great masters.

* * *

"A Bookseller's Library, and How to Use It," is the title chosen for the reprint of a bibliography of catalogues and works of reference necessary to the finding of books which has recently appeared in the *Publishers' Weekly*, in the series of articles on "The Profession of Bookselling." The reprint is issued from the office of that paper.

* * *

Two years ago was issued a catalogue of the Library of the Corporation of the City of London, which was of interest to Americans sojourning in that great city, since the library is free. Now appears a catalogue of Hebraica and Judaica in the same institution, compiled by the Rev. A. Löwy, and published by the Corporation. The gift which formed the basis of the present collection consisted of some 400 volumes of ancient Hebrew works, presented in 1846 by Mr. Levy Salomons and since extended and perfected. Mr. Löwy has supplied an index to the Hebrew and other Semitic works, and an English subject-index, which takes in the supplementary appendix, and which will be of great help to readers and students. He is also to be praised for his numerous cross-references. The catalogue proper fills 176 pages.

* * *

The Royal plate at Windsor Castle includes two state dinner services, one of gold, the other of silver. Both were formed by George IV, who regarded them as his own property; but William IV made them over to the Crown. The great silver wine-cooler which was made by Rundell & Bridge for George IV, and weighs 7,000 ounces, is superbly chased and ornamented. The Royal plate at Windsor is altogether worth about £1,800,000. There are quaint pieces taken from the Spanish Armada; a peacock of precious stones from India, valued at £40,000; a tiger's head, also from India, which has a solid ingot of gold for a tongue and crystal teeth; and a wonderful collection of splendidly ornamented gold shields, one, made for George IV out of his snuff-boxes, being worth £10,000. There are 400 plates that cost twenty-six guineas each.

Collectors of old arms are complaining of fraud in the famous Fox blades. These swords were celebrated all through the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries for their excellent temper, and mention of them is frequent in English drama. There was a certain Julian del Rei, believed to be a Morisco, who set up a forge at Toledo in the early part of the sixteenth century and became famous for the excellence of his sword blades, which were regarded as the best of Toledo. That city had for many ages previous been renowned for sword-making, it being supposed that the Moors introduced the art, as they did so many good things, from the east. Julian del Rei's mark was a little dog, *perrillo*, which came to be taken for a fox, and so the "fox blade," or simply "fox" for any good sword became a title of honor. The brand came to be imitated in other places, and there are Solingen blades of comparatively modern manufacture, which still bear the little dog of Julian del Rei, to the cost of confiding collectors.

* * *

Frederick Gale, the English authority on cricket, who is leaving England for Canada, recently sold his library in London. Among the books were: F. Gale's "Cricket," with autograph letters of Ruskin, Tom Taylor, and others, £1 10s.; Gale's "Sports and Pastimes" and "Modern English Sports," each with one or more letters from Ruskin and other distinguished men, £1 2s.; and Gale's "Life of Robert Grimsdon," 18s.; Lillywhite's "Cricket Scores and Biographies," £6 15s.; a volume of old newspapers collected by Professor Ruskin at a great cost, who gave them, as appears by Mr. Ruskin's autograph note, "to his dear friend Robert Gale," 5 guineas; first edition of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's "Poems," 2 guineas; and Swinburne's "Under the Microscope," 1 guinea.

* * *

One of the most magnificent feudal buildings in the world is Warwick Castle. Its foundations are nearly a thousand years old. Its art collection is historic. Leading it in fame is the great Warwick Vase, which is housed in a pavilion especially constructed for it. The vase is of white marble, designed and executed in the finest Grecian style, and is one of the best specimens of ancient sculpture at present known. It was found at the bottom of a lake at Hadrian's Villa, near Tivoli, by Sir William Hamilton, then Ambassador at the Court of Naples; by him it was presented to the father of the Earl of Warwick, conveyed to England and placed in its present position. Its shape is circular, and it is capable of holding 136 gallons. There is here, too, the celebrated painting by Vandyke of Charles I, a splendid work of art; rooms of ancient armor and gems of art in an excellent state of preservation; works of Rubens, Raphael, Vandyke, Hobein, Lely, Caracci, Di Credi, Del Sarto and many other famous painters; antique furniture, Venetian mirrors, a marble chimneypiece, said to be the only specimen of its kind in England; and the great painting by Rubens of Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Order of Jesuits. This picture was originally painted for the Jesuit College at Antwerp, and is held at a fabulous value. The walls of the state bedrooms are hung with finely-preserved tapestry made at Brussels in 1604. Superb cabinets, caskets and tables of buhl and marqueterie of the most costly finish; splendid ormolu, crystal, china and lava cups, flasks, Etruscan vases of marvellous beauty and great antiquity, marble and pietra dura tables, bronzes and busts and rare antiques are scattered everywhere in rich profusion.

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At the galleries of Boussod, Valadon & Co. there are two newly imported and fine pictures by Gerome. One is of a Cairene street lined with bazars and alive with chattering merchants, warlike riders, veiled women, naked children and slatternly hounds; the other is of a homesick Albanian tending his goats in a sparse Egyptian pasture. The sky in the Egyptian pastoral is ablaze with crimson, rose and gold, and the picture reads to the eye like a bit of rich Byronic verse.

* * *

Book-lovers, especially those interested in the great era of English letters when Edinburgh was a sanctuary of genius, cannot but enjoy the book which Mr. Lawrence Hutton has given us under the title of "Literary Landmarks of Edinburgh." The faraway days of Rob Roy and of Waverly come back to one as one wanders among the queer streets and seeks refreshment in the queer taverns of Mr. Hutton's exploration of Auld Reekie. The work is issued by the Harpers, and, without exaggeration, may be termed invaluable to the lover or student of English literature, or the collector thereof.

* * *

Among other things, the imperial *rara avis* of Germany is a collector of autographs. On his recent visit to London he, while attending one of the social functions given in his honor, was talking with Countess Hatzfeldt, wife of the German ambassador to London, on the subject of his collection of autographs of celebrated persons. The Countess mentioned that her husband had in his possession some letters written by Napoleon I, dated "Berlin, 1806." The Emperor was greatly interested, and asked that the letters be shown him. Upon this becoming known, several celebrated families of Prussia, whose forefathers had played important parts in the campaign of that year, among them the Hohenlohe, Kleist, Kalckreut, Hatzfeldt and Willenburg families, decided to present to His Majesty all the letters, decrees and other documents written or signed by the great Napoleon which they have had in their possession for many years.

* * *

The biggest Bible, in point of dimensions or measurement, is one the pages of which are two feet in length and nearly as much in width. At the top of each page is a line in red ink, which translated reads: "This is a history." The Bible, which is two hundred years old, belongs to a German lady residing in Manchester, England. The work contains many primitive illustrations, and is an heirloom which has descended to its present possessor by a succession of family wills. The biggest Bible in the world, in point of bulk, belongs to Mr. John Bell, of Manchester, he having added pictures and photographs to it, until it has now 10,000 illustrations, and consists of ninety volumes. The biggest Bible, as issued from the press (being only a Bible, and not a Bible and Commentary in one), is that which has been presented to a blind and deaf soldier of Stratford, Conn. It is in eight volumes, each being 15 inches long, 12 inches wide, and nearly 6 inches thick, on embossed print for the blind.

Among the new exhibits in the King's Library in the British Museum, writes Mr. Yates to the *Tribune*, are several specimens of early American and Australian printing. It seems that in British North America the first printing press was set up by Stephen Daye, of Cambridge, Mass., in 1639, and the first book issued was a metrical version of the Psalms, called "The Bay Psalm Book," and later on known as "The New England Psalm Book," printed in 1640. The earliest Anglo-American publication now exhibited is the first edition of Eliot's Indian Bible, Cambridge, 1661-63, which was also the first Bible printed in America.

* * *

Brasenose College, at Oxford, is rejoicing over the recovery of the ancient "Brasen Nose" at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, supposed to be a memento of the temporary removal of the college to that town in the year 1334. Old Anthony a Wood tells of a certain building in Stamford, "near to one of the Tower gates," which was called Brazen Nose "to this day," and "hath a great gate and a wicket, upon which wicket is a face or head of old cast brass with a ring through the nose thereof;" and he adds that the name of this building was written in leases and deeds "Brasen Nose." This appears to be unquestionably the "brazen nose" of which the college authorities, after a lapse of five and a-half centuries, have, by some powerful inducements or skillful exercise of diplomacy, contrived to repossess themselves.

* * *

The San Francisco *Examiner* has reported the discovery of a collection of old coins, buried by a member of the Donner Lake emigrant party which encountered such a tragic fate on its way to California in 1847. An inspection of the money shows one hundred and seventeen dollar pieces and seventy-four half-dollars. There are fifty-one five-franc pieces, of the dates: 1806 one, 1808 three, 1809 one, 1811 one, 1812, ten, 1814 two, 1816 one, 1818 one, 1819 one, 1820 one, 1822 two, 1823 one, 1824 one, 1825 one, 1827 two, 1828 one, 1829 two, 1831 three, 1832 two, 1833 three, 1834 two, 1837 one, 1838 two, 1839 one, 1840 one, 1841 two, 1843 one and 1844 one. There are also four five-franc pieces of the "Republic," which have the legends: "An. 13," "L'an. 8," "L'an. 11," "L'an. 11." The collection contains forty-eight Mexican dollars: of 1826 one, 1827 one, 1828 two, 1830 one, 1831 two, 1832 three, 1833 one, 1834 four, 1835 three, 1836 four, 1837 three, 1838 three, 1839 three, 1840 three, 1841 five, 1842 four, 1843 two, 1844 one, 1845 two. There is one Spanish dollar dated 1805, two 1810, one 1812, and one 1821. One Mexican dollar is 183-, but the last figure cannot be made out. There is a Bolivian dollar of 1836, one from La Plata of 1835, and a five marks of Saxony of 1835. Of American half-dollars there are: of 1813 one, 1815 one, 1817 one, 1818 three, 1822 two, 1823 two, 1824 two, 1825 two, 1826 two, 1827 two, 1828 one, 1829 six, 1830 six, 1832 five, 1833 two, 1834 two, 1835 three, 1836 three, 1837 four, 1838 two, 1839 three, 1840 one, 1841 three, 1842 three, 1843 four. Two Spanish half-dollars are dated respectively 1800 and 1805.

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The Editor, THE COLLECTOR.

The grand total realized for the nine days' sale of the Cavendish-Bentick collection of art furniture was £69,549 9s. The high prices of this sale were extraordinary. The prime cost was exceeded by nearly cent per cent, and in many instances even larger profits were obtained. Generally speaking, the prices realized show a return of 5 per cent compound interest on the original outlay.

* * *

A work is in preparation, and will shortly be published by subscription, entitled "The Music and Musical Instruments of Japan." The author, Mr. F. T. Piggott, who was lately legal adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan, has taken advantage of his residence in that country to compile a history of the different branches of Japanese music, collected from native sources; an examination into the Japanese scale and the tunings of the different instruments; an accurate description of all the musical instruments in use in Japan; and examples of Japanese music transcribed to western notation. The book will be profusely illustrated with reproductions of old Japanese prints, photographs, and sketches of instruments by the author, and will be an acceptable and novel addition to the musical library.

* * *

The antiquity swindles of London have received the attention of *The Athenæum*, which says that in that city there is hardly ever an excavation for foundations but coins—often of the most absurdly unlikely description, such as Greek or Alexandrian, and sometimes of quite a modern date—are "found" by clever workmen, sometimes at fabulous depths. Some thirty years ago there was a large manufactory of "old" lead and pewter articles said to be found during the construction of the docks at Shadwell. Reliquaries and impossible heart-shaped vessels were turned out, on which a date was generally stamped of the eleventh or twelfth century; but they blundered in giving the year in Arabic numerals two or three centuries before such numerals were in use. These forgeries were sown almost everywhere, and, notwithstanding their clumsiness, evidently commanded a good market. Mr. Reed some years ago laid a trap for these gentlemen. He inquired of some of the workmen in London who were in the habit of producing these things if it was true that they had found one with the figure of a bishop upon it. No; they had seen nothing of it. Then, producing paper and pencil, he drew the kind of thing he meant with lettering below. Ah, yes, they believed one of their mates had turned up something a bit like it, and they would try to find him. Accordingly, in a day or two, a corroded quasi-reliquary was produced to Mr. Reed, with the effigy of a bishop thereon, and, lo! below the figure they had put his own lettering of "Sanctus Fabricatus!"

A pretty poor catch-penny, or catch-dollar, is "The Leaf-Collector's Handbook and Herbarium," a rather large octavo volume published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, and prepared by Mr. Charles S. Newhall, author of "The Trees of Northeastern America." This volume consists mainly of coarsely-executed cuts of the leaves of our native trees. Opposite each cut is a blank page to which the leaf-collector is desired to fasten his pressed leaves by slips of gummed paper, several pages of which are furnished at the end of the volume. The industrious collector who cannot invent a better home-made herbarium than this had best take to collecting in some other line.

* * *

The German Fan Exhibition at Carlsruhe was exceptionally rich, consisting of 3,484 objects, and for the historian of art, the art critic and especially for ladies, of the greatest interest. In order to give variety to the exhibition, other articles were accepted, such as snuff-boxes, ornaments, walking-sticks and antiquities of many kinds. Among other things was the frame of a parasol of lapis lazuli, a present from the late Emperor William to his daughter, the Grand Duchess. The Grand Duke of Baden sent in a rich collection of snuff-boxes, sticks, seals, carved ivory, etc.; the Princess William of Baden and Prince Louis Ferdinand of Bavaria a number of fans dating from the last century, and others of the time of Louis XIV; the Hereditary Crown Princess of Weimar, twenty-two antique fans. A court lady of Munich exhibited a collection of fans painted with scenes from nearly all of Wagner's operas. There were several specimens of the so-called autograph fan. The Baroness Friederichs possesses a fan on which are the signatures of all the diplomatists who attended the Berlin Congress, and Countess Oriola has one of the same kind with the signatures of the royal family and the Berlin court, including those of Prince von Bismarck and Count Moltke. There were also fans exhibited which showed on every spray a small study of a great artist.

* * *

The principal feature of the recent sale season at Christie's in London was the enormous amount of old plate which was offered. At the last sale, an oval tankard which weighed 1,068 ounces realized two guineas an ounce. This tankard has a carefully authenticated pedigree beginning with its presentation by Charles II to Lord Newport, dated 1667, and is the earliest hall-marked piece of plate in England. It is well known that at the Hamilton Palace sale such exorbitant prices were paid for mere trumpery that every article purchased at that sale which has since come into the market has been resold at a loss. The first exception to this rule occurred at the Bentinck sale, when a pair of ormolu candlesticks, for which Cavendish Bentinck had paid 120 guineas, realized 160 guineas.

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In the year 1840, says William Shepard, in an interesting article upon "Lost Treasures of Literature" in *Lippincott's Magazine* for May, an antiquary bought some soles from a fishmonger in Old Hungerford Market, Yarmouth. The soles were wrapped in a large, stiff sheet of paper torn from a folio volume which stood at the fishmonger's elbow. When the purchaser unwrapped his purchase, his eye caught the signatures of Lauderdale, Godolphin, Ashley and Sunderland on the paper. The wrapper was a sheet of the victualing-charges for prisoners in the Tower in the reign of James II. The signatures were those of his ministers. The antiquary went back at once to Jay's shop. "That is good paper of yours," he said, assuming an air of indifference. "Yes, but too stiff. I've got a lot of it, too. I got it from Somerset House. They had ten tons of waste paper, and I offered seven pounds a ton, which they took, and I have got three tons of it in the stables. The other seven they keep till I want it." "All like this?" asked the antiquary, his heart in his mouth. "Pretty much," replied Jay; "all odds and

ends." Jay obligingly allowed the antiquary to carry home an armful of the rubbishy papers. His head swam as he looked on accounts of the Exchequer Office signed by Henry VII and Henry VIII, wardrobe accounts of Queen Anne, dividend receipts signed by Pope and Newton, a treatise on the Eucharist in the boyish hand of Edward VI, and another on the Order of the Garter in the scholarly handwriting of Elizabeth. The government in selling the papers to Jay had disposed of public documents which contained much of the history of the country from Henry VII to George IV. The antiquary, little by little, was acquiring the whole pile, but he injudiciously whispered his secret about, and it became no longer a secret. The government were aroused to a sense of their loss, and the public clamored for a committee of inquiry. It was then found that the blame lay with Lord Mountague, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that the papers which had been sold for seventy pounds were, at the least, worth some three thousand pounds; most of them had by this time been lost beyond redemption.

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